(b) whether it is also a fact that the SSK Agosta 90B Class Submarine, acquired by Pakistan and Scorpene Submarines are designed and developed by DCN od France;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the features of both types of submarines are almost similar;

(d) if so, what is the tactical advantage for India in acquiring Scorpene Submarines; and

(e) what is the guarantee that the supplier would not pass on information about Scorpene to Pakistan and *vice-versa*?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Contracts for the indigenous construction of six French Scorpene class submarines at M/s Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL), Mumbai, under Transfer of Technology from M/s Armaris, France were signed on 6th October 2005.

Different classes of submarines are designed and developed by various agencies all over the world including DCN of France. And various countries, including India, acquire them depending on their perceived security concerns. The French Scorpene contracted by India for acquisition is considered one of the best conventional submarines in the world.

The submarine has been designed by incorporating more advanced features and characteristics which would give the required tactical advantage over other contemporary submarines.

(e) A security agreement was concluded between the Government of India and Government of France to maintain the highest level of secrecy pertaining to the Scorpene project.

Accident of ALH Dhruv

†906. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Advanced Light Helicopter "Dhruv" met with an accident in Bangalore;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether the reasons of the accident have been ascertained; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to prevent recurrence of such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) A 'Dhruv' helicopter of Indian Air Force met with an accident on 2nd February 2007 in Bangalore while practising for the Aero India 2007.

(b) All such accidents are investigated through a Court of Inquiry and remedial measures are undertaken accordingly.

(c) A continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway in the Indian Air Force to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Original Equipment Manufactures (OEMs) of concerned countries are also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft. Besides, anti-bird measures are also undertaken.

Technologies developed by DRDO

907. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of technologies that have been developed by DRDO so far;

(b) what is the number of technologies that have either been commercialized or been put to use for Defence purposes; and

(c) whether it is a fact that 30 per cent of Defence Budget allocated to DRDO goes down the drain because of non-utilisation of technologies developed by it; if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has develped numerous technologies related to various systems realized for Users. These include missiles; composite materials; electronic warfare systems; avionics, radars and sonars, communication systems; signal processing; armament and explosives; combat vehicles; nuclear, biological and chemical decontamination suites; parachutes, etc.